

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-19 have been cancelled without prejudice and new claims 20-23 have been added. New claim 20 corresponds to original claims 1 and 11 and 15. New claims 21-23 correspond to original claims 12-14, respectively.

Turning to the Official Action, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth. This ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome in view of the wording of the new claims.

Specifically, the claims no longer include the recitation "subjected to processing" or "thereby subjecting the amines to processing".

The basis for the weight percent value of claim 14, now new claim 23, is set forth in the specification at page 7, lines 21-22.

Lastly, the rejection of claim 15 no longer applies to the wording of the new claims.

Claims 1, 7-10 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for the reasons set forth in item 2 of the Action. This ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome since it is not applied to claims 11-15, now presented as new claims 20-23.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by JP 52-139196. This ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome since it does not encompass original claims 11-12, now presented as new claims 20-21.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over JP 52-139196.

Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 5-6, 13-15 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by CA 2,242,980.

This ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome since it does not encompass original claims 11-12, now presented as new claims 20-21.

Claims 1, 7-10, 13-15 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by JP 7-224141 or van der Wal '004.

This ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome since it does not encompass original claims 11-12, now presented as new claims 20-21.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by JP 54-78798.

This ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome in view of the cancellation without prejudice of this claim.

Lastly, claims 1, 11-15 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over JP 54-78798. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the wording of the new claims.

As correctly stated by the Examiner, the reference discloses the addition of urea to a polyurethane composition under conditions effective to decompose the polyurethane. The disclosed process differs from the instant process, in that the instant process requires addition of the urea to the decomposition products rather than the polyurethane. However, the Examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious to add the urea to the decomposition products, because one would have expected the urea to perform an equivalent function to the one that it performs when added to the polyurethane, namely to aid in the further decomposition of the products. This reasoning is respectfully traversed as applied to the new claims.

New claim 20 defines the present invention as the method for processing decomposed polyol, which is applied to a decomposing and recovering process of polyurethane resin comprising a hydrolyzing process for hydrolyzing the polyurethane resin and a recovering process for recovering the decomposed product produced by the hydrolysis, wherein a urea is added, in the recovering process, to a decomposed and recovered polyol containing amines obtained by decomposition of the polyurethane resin.

JP 54-78798 discloses that polyurethane resins are decomposed by heating with urea. The process disclosed in the cited reference differs from the process defined in the new claim 20 of the present invention, in that the instant process requires addition of the urea to the amine-containing polyol in the recovery step.

That is, in the cited reference, urea is added to the polyurethane resins during the decomposition of the polyurethane resins by heating. In the present invention, on the other hand,

urea is added to the decomposed products obtained after the polyurethane resin is decomposed by hydrolysis, during the recovery of a decomposed polyol.

The idea of the present invention is to treat the amine-containing polyol after decomposition by hydrolysis, with urea when recovered. According to the instant process, the amines are inactivated without removal, thereby the polyol obtained can be reused as a raw material for the manufacture of a urethane resin, of high quality in a variety of fields.

JP 54-78798 does not disclose or suggest the addition of urea to the decomposed polyol containing amines when the decomposed polyol is recovered in the recovering process, according to the claimed invention.

Other cited references, JP 52-139196, CA 2, 242,980 and JP 7-224141 or van der Wal '004 also fail to disclose the limitations set forth within the new claim 20 of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that each ground of rejection set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, and that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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